The Knowledge

Supporting the National Curriculum



Knowing More

Remembering More

Learning More

Natural Disasters



Key Facts

Plate Tectonics:

The tectonics plates that make up the Earth's crust float on top of the mantle and are constantly moving. The places where the tectonic plates meet are called plate boundaries. They can push and pull against each other and this can cause eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis.

Volcanoes:

They are hills or mountains that have vents. These vents are at the top and lava, gases and ash erupt through them. There are four types of volcanoes: Stratovolcano, cinder cone, shield and lava dome.

Earthquakes:

An earthquake is violent and sudden shaking of the ground. Boundaries of tectonic plates can move past each other and get stuck. The pressure can build up and eventually they slip and a huge amount of energy is released causing an earthquake.

Key Facts

Tsunamis:

A tsunami is a series of waves caused by a volcanic eruption or earthquake under the sea. As the waves near the shore, they become larger and can travel a long way inland. This can create a massive amount of damage to buildings, belongings and people.

Key Vocabulary

Crust - the outer layer of the Earth made up of plates.

Mantle - below the crust and made up of molten rock.

Core - centre of the Earth with a temperature of about 6000 degrees.

Plates - massive plate of solid rock on the Earth's crust.

Magma - molten rock when inside the Earth.

Lava - molten rock when it has erupted out of the crust.

Igneous - rock formed from cooled lava or magma.

Sedimentary - rock formed from organic matter on the crust.

Metamorphic - rock heated inside Earth causing them to change.

Tsunami - When an earthquake occurs in the sea, the water is suddenly moved outwards, creating a giant waves

Test Yourself

- What is an earthquake?
- What is a Tsunami?
- What are the different types of volcanoes?
- What is the ring of fire?
- What comes through the vent of a volcano?

What would I like to know ...